

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 818

By Sargent

A RESOLUTION to recognize the historic antebellum home Meeting of the Waters, on the occasion its 200th anniversary.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should recognize those historic homes that reflect the panoramic history of the great State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Meeting of the Waters, an elegant and stunning antebellum manor located in Williamson County, is one such noteworthy residence that will observe its 200th anniversary this year; and

WHEREAS, this stately home was built in 1810 by Thomas Harden Perkins, a Revolutionary War officer from Virginia, who moved to the Cumberland settlements in the late 1790s after obtaining a land grant for his military service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Perkins, a prosperous Tennessee pioneer, planter, and ironmaster, chose the site for Meeting of the Waters at the confluence of the Big Harpeth River and the West Harpeth River; and

WHEREAS, known as the “Grand Dame” of the five notable Perkins houses still standing in Williamson County, Meeting of the Waters was exquisitely designed in the Federal style, similar to homes seen in Virginia; and

WHEREAS, this graceful manor has enjoyed a storied history over the last 200 years, including the legend of Nicholas “Bigbee” Perkins, who with his wife, Mary, inherited the estate in 1838; Nicholas Perkins famously helped capture Aaron Burr, former Vice-President of the United States, who was fleeing a call to face charges of treason leveled by President Thomas Jefferson; and

WHEREAS, the indelible legacy of Meeting of the Waters as a valuable historic site continued in 1982, with its placement on the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the home remained in the Perkins family until 2007, when it was purchased by Joseph Cashia, along with twenty-five acres of the original homestead; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cashia and his wife, Angela Humphreys, have painstakingly restored Meeting of the Waters to its original glory; the walls are handmade brick sixteen-inches thick, and the wide-board floors of chestnut and ash are original to the home; as a result of extensive research on period furnishings, the wall coverings and home furnishings currently in the home are similar to the original furnishings used in the antebellum days; and

WHEREAS, restoring this magnificent house to its original glory has been a labor of love for Mr. Cashia and Ms. Humphreys, and their dedicated efforts were rewarded when Meeting of the Waters won the 2009 Preservation Award presented by the Heritage Foundation of Williamson County; and

WHEREAS, the 200th anniversary of Meeting of the Waters offers an excellent opportunity to not only look back and appreciate past achievements, but also affords a chance to impart valuable historic lessons to present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, with an incomparable pride and dedication to preserving Tennessee, Southern and American history, Mr. Cashia and Ms. Humphreys epitomize the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of true Tennesseans, and Meeting of the Waters, the magnificent "Grand Dame" of historical homes in Williamson County, should be honored and recognized on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize Meeting of the Waters upon the historic occasion of its 200th anniversary, and honor Joseph Cashia and Angela Humphreys for their dedication to keeping Meeting of the Waters as a living, breathing part of our State's history and heritage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.